

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claims presented in the application.

1. (Original) A recombinant allergen, characterised in that it is a mutant of a naturally occurring allergen, wherein the mutant allergen has at least four primary mutations, which each reduce the specific IgE binding capability of the mutated allergen as compared to the IgE binding capability of the said naturally occurring allergen, wherein each primary mutation is a substitution of one surface-exposed amino acid residue with another residue, which does not occur in the same position in the amino acid sequence of any known homologous protein within the taxonomic species from which said naturally occurring allergen originates, wherein each primary mutation is spaced from each other primary mutation by at least 15 Å, and wherein the primary mutations are placed in such a manner that at least one circular surface region with a area of 800 Å² comprises no mutation.

2. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1, wherein the primary mutations are spaced between about 20 to 30 Å.

3. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1 comprising a number of secondary mutations, which each reduce the specific IgE binding capability of the mutated allergen as compared to the binding capability of the said naturally occurring allergen, wherein each secondary mutation is a substitution of one surface-exposed amino acid residue with another residue, which does not occur in the same position in the amino acid sequence of

14. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1 comprising from 5 to 20 primary mutations.

15. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 3 characterised in that the mutant allergen comprises from 1 to 4 secondary mutations per primary mutation.

16. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1, characterised in that one or more of the substitutions is carried out by site-directed mutagenesis.

17. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1, characterised in that one or more of the substitutions is carried out by DNA shuffling.

18. (Previously presented) A recombinant allergen according to claim 1, characterised in that it is a mutant of an inhalation allergen.

19. (Original) A recombinant allergen according to claim 18, characterised in that it is a mutant of a pollen allergen.

20. (Original) A recombinant allergen according to claim 19 characterised in that it is a mutant of a pollen allergen originating from the taxonomic order of *Fagales*, *Oleales* or *Pinales*.

29-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the recombinant allergen according to claim 1 and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or adjuvant.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) A composition comprising two or more recombinant mutant allergen variants according to claim 1, wherein each variant is defined by having at least one primary mutation, which is absent in at least one of the other variants, wherein for each variant no secondary mutation is present within a radius of 15 Å from each absent primary mutation.

38. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 37 comprising 2-12 variants.

39. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 37 further comprising at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or adjuvant.

40-63. (Canceled)

79. (Original) A recombinant allergen according claim 8, characterised in that the specific IgE binding to the mutated allergen is reduced by at least 10%.

80. (Original) A recombinant allergen according to claim 14 comprising from 6 to 15 primary mutations.

81. (Original) A recombinant allergen according to claim 80 comprising from 7 to 12 primary mutations.

82. (Original) A recombinant allergen according to claim 81 comprising from 8 to 10 primary mutations.

83. (Original) A composition according to claim 38 comprising 3-10 variants.

84. (Original) A composition according to claim 83 comprising 4-8 variants.

85. (Original) A composition according to claim 84 comprising 5-7 variants.